News Review

Belong  Grow  Succeed

MRS CARTLEDGE
A terrible situation but a big opportunity?
A terrible situation but a big opportunity?

- As restrictions begin to lift minds are turning to how we want the post-corona world to look – and many want it to look as green as possible.
- The former governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, has called for industrialised nations to invest in a greener economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis.
- He said that the pandemic was a ‘terrible situation, but there was also a big opportunity’ at the end of it.
Many experts have pointed out that one of the few upsides of the pandemic has been the positive environmental impact.

Air pollution has fallen, and carbon emissions are set to fall by 5.5%.

Experts argue that this isn’t enough to tackle the climate crisis by itself, but the question now is not when will life return to normal but what ‘normal’ do we want to return to?
A ‘Green New Deal’ would be aimed at changing society’s attitudes and actions towards climate change rather than focusing on how we behave as individuals. This would mean:

1. Only getting energy from renewable sources and improving buildings to make them more energy efficient.
2. Protecting and expanding ecosystems such as forests that take carbon dioxide out of the air.
3. Ending dependence on businesses that pollute the environment.
What are the benefits of a ‘Green New Deal’?

- The massive social changes required to make these things happen could create thousands of new ‘climate jobs.’
- In the UK, activist Jonathan Neale has even proposed the creation of a National Climate Service, an organisation like the NHS, funded by the government, which would employ people to make this a reality.
- But critics are numerous. Such changes are impossible, they say. The changes are too expensive and ambitious. After Covid-19 we simply need to get back to business as quickly as possible.
Is there really a green way out?

- No, argue its critics.
- These ideas could never realistically happen. They would put millions out of work, destroy prosperity and cost too much.
- The priority after the coronavirus must be getting businesses and the economy back to work as quickly as possible.
- Unfortunately, the climate may even have to become less of a priority to achieve this.
Is there really a green way out?

• Absolutely, argue its supporters.
• Activists and thinkers have spent years working out detailed plans for how this could happen.
• There is massive public support – almost half the UK population wants the climate crisis to be addressed urgently.
• The question is not is there a way? But rather, is there the political will to make this happen?